

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for distributing personalized editions of media programs, the method comprising:

accessing a media program at an editing device;

receiving a designation of at least ~~one point~~ two points of interest within the media program;

generating a sequence of bookmarks defining a personalized path through the media program, each bookmark defining each designated point ~~one of the designated points~~ of interest within the media program; and

transmitting ~~at least one bookmark~~ the sequence of bookmarks to a playback device having access to the media program, wherein the ~~at least one bookmark~~ sequence of bookmarks is usable by the playback device to skip from one point of interest to another within the media program in the sequence defined by the personalized path in response to a user command.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accessing the media program at the playback device from a source other than the editing device;

receiving the ~~at least one bookmark~~ sequence of bookmarks at the playback device directly from the editing device; and

during presentation of the media program, skipping to a point of interest marked by the ~~at least one bookmark~~ a next bookmark in the sequence of bookmarks in response to a user command.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein skipping comprises:
starting presentation of the media program at a position marked by a next
bookmark in response to a user command received by the playback device.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein skipping comprises:
starting presentation of the media program at a position marked by a previous
bookmark in response to a user command received at the playback device.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises:
transmitting the ~~at least one bookmark~~ sequence of bookmarks from the editing
device to the playback device via a network.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the network is selected from the
group consisting of a cable television network, a direct broadcast satellite network, and
the Internet.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises:
transmitting the ~~at least one bookmark~~ sequence of bookmarks from the editing
device to the playback device using a wireless technique.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises:
physically transporting the ~~at least one bookmark~~ sequence of bookmarks from
the editing device to the playback device on a removable storage medium.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the removable storage medium is selected from a group consisting of a magnetic disk, an optical disc, and a non-volatile flash memory card.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one bookmark~~ sequence of bookmarks is encapsulated within a program interface object (PIO).

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a time reference.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a non-time positional reference.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark marks a beginning point of a segment of interest within the media program.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one bookmark marks an end point of a segment comprising at least one advertisement within the media program.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing comprises downloading the media program from a server.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing comprises digitally recording the media program from a broadcast medium.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing comprises accessing a removable storage medium including the media program.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the removable storage medium comprises a digital versatile disk (DVD).

19. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the playback device comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

20. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the editing device comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

21. (currently amended) A system for distributing personalized editions of media programs, the system comprising:

an editing device comprising:

a media interface component ~~within an editing device~~ that accesses a media program;

a point of interest designation component that receives a designation of at least one point of interest within the media program;

a bookmark generation component that generates a bookmark defining each designated point of interest within the media program, wherein the bookmark is an attribute of a program information object (PIO) for the media program, the PIO comprising one or more attributes including information about the media program and one or more user-selectable actions performable in connection with the media program, wherein the PIO is to be represented by a visual indicator displayable in a graphical user interface to facilitate user interaction with the PIO; and

a bookmark transmission component that transmits the PIO including at least one bookmark [[to]]; and

a playback device having access to the media program, wherein the playback device receives the PIO directly from the bookmark transmission component of the editing device, and wherein the at least one bookmark is usable by the playback device to skip from one point of interest to another within the media program in response to a user command.

22. (currently amended) The system of claim 21, further the playback device comprising:

a media interface component ~~within a playback device~~ that accesses the media program from a source other than the editing device;

a bookmark reception component ~~within the playback device~~ that receives the PIO including the at least one bookmark; and

a playback control component that, during presentation of the media program, skips to a point of interest marked by the at least one bookmark in response to a user command.

23. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the playback control component starts presentation of the media program at a position marked by a next bookmark in response to a user command received by the playback device.

24. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the playback control component starts presentation of the media program at a position marked by a previous bookmark in response to a user command received at the playback device.

25. (currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the bookmark transmission component transmits the PIO including the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device via a network.

26. (original) The system of claim 25, wherein the network is selected from the group consisting of a cable television network, a direct broadcast satellite network, and the Internet.

27. (currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the bookmark transmission component transmits the PIO including the at least one bookmark from the editing device to the playback device using a wireless technique.

28. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the bookmark transmission component stores the at least one bookmark on a removable storage medium to be physically transported from the editing device to the playback device.

29. (original) The system of claim 28, wherein the removable storage medium is selected from a group consisting of a magnetic disk, an optical disc, and a non-volatile flash memory card.

30. (canceled)

31. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a time reference.

32. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein at least one bookmark comprises a non-time positional reference.

33. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein at least one bookmark marks a beginning point of a segment of interest within the media program.

34. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein at least one bookmark marks an end point of a segment comprising at least one advertisement within the media program.

35. (currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the media interface component downloads the media program from a server.

36. (currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the media interface component digitally records the media program from a broadcast medium.

37. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the media interface component accesses a removable storage medium including the media program.

38. (original) The system of claim 37, wherein the removable storage medium comprises a digital versatile disk (DVD).

39. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the playback device comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

40. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the editing device comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

41. (currently amended) A system for distributing personalized editions of media programs, the system comprising:

means for accessing a media program at an editing device;

means for receiving a designation of at least one point of interest within the media program;

means for generating a bookmark defining each designated point of interest within the media program, wherein at least one bookmark defines a non-chronological path through the media program; and

means for transmitting the at least one bookmark defining the non-chronological path through the media program from the editing device to a playback device having access to the media program, wherein the at least one bookmark is usable by the playback device to skip from one point of interest to another within the media program along the non-chronological path in response to a user command.